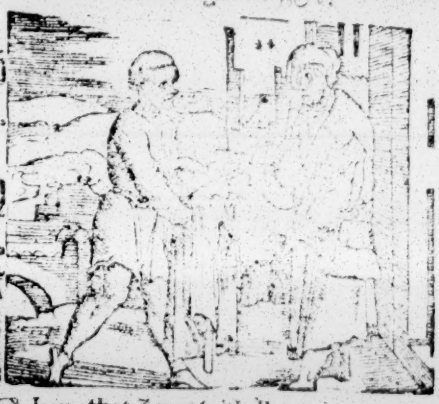
Here is an Item for you.

Or, The Countrimans bill of charges, for his comming vp to London

Declared by a Whistle. To the tune of *King Henry &c.*



DIogenes that laugh'd to see
a Hare once eate a Thistle,
Would surely smile and laugh the while,
to heare me sing my whistle,
For now, tis meant wax must inuent,
a silent way of singing.
And so for feare lest some should heare,
must whistle stead of singing,
With a hay downe, with a ho downe,
With a hay downe, downe, downe, derry,
since that wee may
nor sing, nor say,
Weele whistle and be merry,

A Countryman to London came
to view the famous Citie,
And here his charge did grow so large,
it made me write this Ditty,
For in a Will he set downe still,
his charge from the beginning,
Which I did finde, and now doe mind,
to whistle stead of singing,
With a hay downe, &c.

Impri mis. comming vnto towne,
and at my Inne alighting
I almost spent a noble crowne
in potting and in piping,
Item, that the Tapster there
my Iugges halfe full did bring in,
I dare not say he was a Knaue,
but Ile whistle stead of singing.
With a hay downe, &c.

Item, that I went abroad,
and had my purse soone picked,
Whils I did stare on London ware,
by a Pick-purse I was fitted.
Item, that I met a wench,
that put me downe in drinking,
I dare not say what she made me pay,
but Ile whistle stead of singing.
With a hay downe, &c.

Item, that I met withall
a very louing Cosen,
Who needs would buy of my Countrey
and gane me halfe a dozen.
And at the last a pare of Cards
they cunningly did bring in,
I will not say what they made me pay
but Ile whistle stead of singing,
With a hay downe, with a ho downe,
With a hay downe, downe, downe, derry,
since that we may
nor sing nor say,
Weele whistle and be merry.

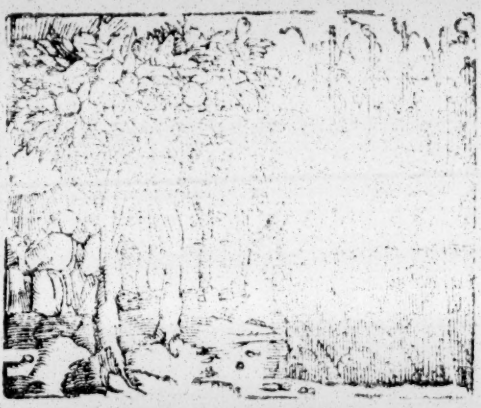
Item, that I daily went
vnto my Lawyers Chamber,
And he did say I should win the day,
without all feare or danger.
But then at last, for charge and cost,
he such a Bill did bring in,
I will not say, what he made me pay,
but Ile whistle stead of singing.
With a hey downe, &c.

Item, that I payed there, for
a bagpipe in a bottle,
Which did begin to hisse and sing,
when we did heare the fiople.
Item, that one night I did lye
in the Counter for my drinking,
I will not say, what I paid next day
but Ile whistle in stead of singing.
With a hey downe, &c.

Item, that at last I came
to take my horse againe.
But my poore horse lookt neuer worse,
his belly did complaine,
For he alas for want of hay,
stood ore the manger grinning,
Yet they made me pay for night and day
but Ile whistle stead of singing.
With a hey downe, &c.

The Country-mans going downe into the Country,

Declared by a whistle. To the same tune.



THus having got from London once,
be no full heavy hearted,
For like an honest man he had
from all his money parted.
His Cloake-bag full of papers was,
in stead of money ringing,
I dare not boast what those papers cost,
but He whistle stead of singing.
With a hay downe, with a ho downe,
With a hay downe, downe, downe, derry
since that we may
nor sing, nor lay,
Wele whistle and be merry.

Imprimis, comming home he found,
his good wife Jane a brewing,
And did not reserve but unto her
his papers fell to shewing.
But when she saw, nothing but lies,
she fell to scold and singing,
But all that day he kept away,
and whistled stead of singing.
With a hay downe, &c.

Item, then he went to plough
which whiles that he was driving
Alas sayes he what fooles are we,
in law to fall a striving,
For now I meane to keepe my farme,
which shall good profit bring us.
I must drive on my money's gone,
and whistle stead of singing.
With a hey downe, &c.

Item, that his neighbour came
to aske what newes at London,
Alas sayes he, more wiser be,
for feare that you be undone.
Spend not at Terme what you doe earne,
while that your wives are spinning,
Which makes me now to drive the plough,
and whistle stead of singing.
With hey downe, &c.

For best knowne unto you all,
that I my money spended
Such fooles as I will beggers dye
before their lives are ended.
Where ore beware and have more care
when that your money's gingling,
Least when 'tis spent you doe repent
and whistle stead of singing.
With a hey downe &c.

For I so many Items had,
yet could not I beware,
For this and that and I know not what,
this Item brings my care,
Yet let this be to all of you,
an Item which I bring us,
Least money spent makes you repent,
and whistle stead of singing,
With a hay downe, &c.

Yet one more Item I will add
since that my song is ended
My Item, this, that I would wish,
no man to be offended,
With all my Item but to save,
his money when t is gingling,
Least when ti's spent, he doe repent,
and whistle stead of singing.
With a hay downe, with a ho downe,
With a hay downe, downe, downe, derry,
since that we may
nor sing, nor ly,
Wele whistle and be merry.

FINIS.

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